## IN THE CLAIMS:

The current claims follow. For claims not marked as amended in this response, any difference in the claims below and the previous state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error.

1. (Original) A router for interconnecting external devices coupled to said router, said router comprising:

a switch fabric; and

a plurality of routing nodes coupled to said switch fabric, wherein each of said plurality of routing nodes comprises packet processing circuitry capable of transmitting data packets to, and receiving data packets from, said external devices and further capable of transmitting data packets to, and receiving data packets from, other ones of said plurality of routing nodes via said switch fabric,

wherein said switch fabric is capable of detecting that the output bandwidth of a first output of said switch fabric has been exceeded and, in response to said detection, said switch fabric causes a first one of said plurality of routing nodes to slow an input rate of data packets transmitted from said first routing node to a first input of said switch fabric.

2. (Original) The router as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said switch fabric implements a Weighted Fair Queuing algorithm to slow said input rate of data packets from said first routing node.

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3. (Original) The router as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said first routing node comprises

a first queue comprising a plurality of prioritized buffers capable of storing data packets to be

transmitted to said switch fabric.

4. (Original) The router as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said first routing node slows

down a rate at which data packets are transmitted to said switch fabric from said first queue.

5. (Original) The router as set forth in Claim 4 wherein said first routing node selects

data packets to be transferred to said switch fabric from a first one of said plurality of prioritized

buffers according to a priority value associated with said first prioritized buffer.

6. (Original) The router as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said first routing node causes a

first one of said external devices to slow a rate at which data packets are transmitted to said first

queue.

7. (Original) The router as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said first routing node routes

said data packets using Layer 3 routing information.

8. (Original) The router as set forth in Claim 7 wherein said Layer 3 routing information

comprises an Internet protocol (IP) address.

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9. (Original) The router as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said first routing node routes

said data packets using Layer 2 medium access control (MAC) address information.

10. (Original) A communication network comprising a plurality of routers that

communicate data packets to one another and to interfacing external devices, each of said plurality of

routers comprising:

a switch fabric; and

a plurality of routing nodes coupled to said switch fabric, wherein each of said plurality of

routing nodes comprises packet processing circuitry capable of transmitting data packets to, and

receiving data packets from, said external devices and further capable of transmitting data packets to,

and receiving data packets from, other ones of said plurality of routing nodes via said switch fabric,

wherein said switch fabric is capable of detecting that the output bandwidth of a first output

of said switch fabric has been exceeded and, in response to said detection, said switch fabric causes a

first one of said plurality of routing nodes to slow an input rate of data packets transmitted from said

first routing node to a first input of said switch fabric.

11. (Original) The communication network as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said switch

fabric implements a Weighted Fair Queuing algorithm to slow said input rate of data packets from

said first routing node.

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12. (Original) The communication network as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said first

routing node comprises a first queue comprising a plurality of prioritized buffers capable of storing

data packets to be transmitted to said switch fabric.

13. (Original) The communication network as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said first

routing node slows down a rate at which data packets are transmitted to said switch fabric from said

first queue.

14. (Original) The communication network as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said first

routing node selects data packets to be transferred to said switch fabric from a first one of said

plurality of prioritized buffers according to a priority value associated with said first prioritized

buffer.

15. (Original) The communication network as set forth in Claim 14 wherein said first

routing node causes a first one of said external devices to slow a rate at which data packets are

transmitted to said first queue.

16. (Original) The communication network as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said first

routing node routes said data packets using Layer 3 routing information.

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17. (Original) The communication network as set forth in Claim 16 wherein said Layer 3

routing information comprises an Internet protocol (IP) address.

18. (Original) The communication network as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said first

routing node routes said data packets using Layer 2 medium access control (MAC) address

information.

19. (Previously Presented) For use in a router comprising a switch fabric and a plurality

of routing nodes, each of the routing nodes comprising packet processing circuitry for transmitting

data packets to, and receiving data packets from, external devices and other routing nodes via the

switch fabric, a method of routing data packets comprising the steps of:

in the switch fabric, detecting that the output bandwidth of a first output of the switch fabric

has been exceeded; and

in response to the detection, causing a first routing node to slow an input rate of data packets

transmitted from the first routing node to a first input of the switch fabric.

20. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 19 wherein the switch fabric implements

a Weighted Fair Queuing algorithm to slow the input rate of data packets from the first routing node.

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21. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 19 wherein the first routing node

comprises a first queue comprising a plurality of prioritized buffers capable of storing data packets to

be transmitted to the switch fabric.

22. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 21 further comprising the step of

selecting data packets to be transferred to the switch fabric from a first one of the plurality of

prioritized buffers according to a priority value associated with the first prioritized buffer.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in Claim 22 further comprising the

step of causing the first external device to slow a rate at which data packets are transmitted to the

first queue.

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